

**Duke, Daphne**

**From:** PSCSC Communications  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 1:10 PM  
**To:** Duke, Daphne; Latimer, Becky  
**Subject:** FW: [External] Question R.E. Public Testimony on Docket 2020-229-E  
**Attachments:** merchants of doubt page 284.jpg

**Importance:** High

Please post to DMS and serve all of the Parties in the Docket with this information.

**From:** Jory Fleming <[jfleming@psc.sc.gov](mailto:jfleming@psc.sc.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 12:39 PM  
**To:** PSCSC Communications <communications@psc.sc.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: [External] Question R.E. Public Testimony on Docket 2020-229-E

Hello,

Thank you very much for your help. I would like the commissioners to see the following documents:

- An article in The State "Power company's solar plan could hurt small organic farm. Columbia farmer worried." located here: <https://www.thestate.com/news/local/environment/article250077784.html>
- Brookings Institution report "Rooftop solar: Net metering is a net benefit" located here: <https://www.brookings.edu/research/rooftop-solar-net-metering-is-a-net-benefit/>
- Berkeley National Laboratory study "Financial Impacts of Net-Metered PV on Utilities and Ratepayers: A Scoping Study of Two Prototypical U.S. Utilities" located here: <https://eta-publications.lbl.gov/sites/default/files/lbnl-6913e.pdf>
- The following quote from page 284 of the book "[Merchants of Doubt](#)": "But public opinion can be changed, politicians can be bought, and policies can be fought. In Florida, the electrical utilities blocked a proposed constitutional amendment that would have let homeowners generate solar power. Following a "playbook" developed by Americans for Prosperity (the Tea Party), the utilities launched a campaign to convince ratepayers that rooftop solar generators were "freeloaders" who didn't pay their fair share for the electricity infrastructure. (California utilities had in fact sought huge fee increases from state regulators on that basis, but they were denied.) A similar pattern developed in Nevada and Arizona, where utilities persuaded regulators to allow them implement huge grid connection fees. While many observers would allow that utilities had the right to charge a reasonable connection fee, these huge fees were clearly intended to kill rooftop solar markets." [please see attached scan that shows this paragraph from the source]

Best,  
 Jory

Jory Fleming | Geographer, Oceanographer, Geoscientist  
 MPhil Environmental Change & Management, Oxford '19  
 BS Marine Science & Geography, Geophysics minor, UofSC '17

On Tue, Mar 23, 2021 at 12:08 PM PSCSC Communications <[communications@psc.sc.gov](mailto:communications@psc.sc.gov)> wrote:

Good Afternoon Mr. Fleming,

Yes, we have you listed to testify around 6:17 p.m. We have moved our schedule up to shorten one of the long lunch breaks because we have such an extensive list of witnesses. We may be calling you as early as 4:35 p.m. based on this shortened break. I say this; however, we are running an hour behind schedule this morning, so it may be later than 6:17 p.m. We cannot guarantee a time, but will definitely call you when we get to your name.

If you want to submit your document to this email address, I will ensure it is received by the Commissioners.

Sincerely,

PSC Communications

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**From:** Jory Fleming  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 23, 2021 11:51 AM  
**To:** PSCSC Communications <[communications@psc.sc.gov](mailto:communications@psc.sc.gov)>  
**Subject:** [External] Question R.E. Public Testimony on Docket 2020-229-E

Hello,

I am signed up to testify during this evening's public night for Docket 2020-299-E. I was told to expect a phone call to participate and wanted to be sure that is correct.

The letter I received in the mail also did not have instructions for sharing a document. I would like to know how I may share a document with the commissioners to add to my public testimony?

Best,

Jory

group at Yale University found 95% of Democrats and 71% of Republicans supported requiring their states' utilities to produce 100% of their energy from renewables by 2050.<sup>42</sup> Earlier in the year, the Pew Research Center had found similar numbers: 93% of Democrats supported greater solar generation, while 84% of Republicans did, for example.<sup>43</sup> These were frightening numbers for promoters of the carbon combustion complex.

But public opinion can be changed, politicians can be bought, and policies can be fought. In Florida, the electrical utilities blocked a proposed constitutional amendment that would have let homeowners generate solar power.<sup>44</sup> Following a "playbook" developed by the American Legislative Exchange Network and the Edison Electric Institute and backed by Americans for Prosperity (the Tea Party), the utilities launched a campaign to convince ratepayers that rooftop solar generators were "freeloaders" who didn't pay their fair share for the electricity infrastructure.<sup>45</sup> (California utilities had in fact sought huge fee increases from state regulators on that basis, but they were denied.) A similar pattern developed in Nevada and Arizona, where utilities persuaded regulators to allow them implement huge grid connection fees.<sup>46</sup> While many observers would allow that utilities had the right to charge a reasonable connection fee, these huge fees were clearly intended to kill rooftop solar markets.

In Nevada, the state reversed direction in 2017, with new laws and regulations to foster both rooftop and utility-scale solar power. In Arizona in 2018, however, utilities built on their prior victory, successfully fighting off a renewable portfolio standard that would have required 50% of the state's electricity be generated from renewables by 2030. Much of this was supported rhetorically by "renewable energy denial": the claim that wind and solar power are too unreliable, that they cost too much, and that they lead to "huge job losses."<sup>47</sup> None of this was true.

ACCORDING TO THE US Energy Information Agency, the average cost per megawatt-hour for solar is about \$50, and \$30 to \$50 per megawatt-hour for wind. The financial group Lazard recently said that renewable energy costs are now "at or below the marginal cost of conventional generation," that is, fossil fuels.<sup>48</sup> One recent article in *Forbes* (who, happily, are no longer in the denial business) reported that the U.S. had reached the "coal crossover point," where it is more expensive to operate an existing coal